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QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
(TEXAS AND LOUISIANA.)
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, November 25, 1870.

RS, }

The following instructions and suggestions, the result of actual experience in our frontier service, are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

I. No soldier will leave a military post or station, on field service, without first having been carefully inspected by the commanding officer, or by some suitable person by him designated. The Inspector will see that such soldier is provided with arms and equipments, *serviceable in every particular*; that he has the prescribed amount of ammunition; *good shoes*; a change of underclothing; blanket, haversack, canteen, knife, fork, spoon, tin cup, tin plate, towel, comb, and a piece of soap.

The Inspector will see that the horse of a cavalry soldier is in apparent good health and *well shod*; that the horse equipments are in good repair and well oiled; that there is a lariat at least twenty-four feet long, an iron picket pin, or, in lieu thereof, a side line; also a curry comb and horse-brush.

If an officer, whether of the line or staff, is to have charge of soldiers leaving a post or station for field service, or as escort, such officer must be present at this inspection, *personally to know* the condition of his men and animals before he starts.

Means of transportation leaving a post or station with or without troops, to be absent in the field or on ordinary roads, should in like manner be critically inspected.

If the journey lies through a country infested with thieves or hostile Indians, each teamster and employé must be armed and supplied with ammunition. *Each* teamster must have a curry-comb, horse-brush, bucket, axe and extra helve, hand-axe or hatchet, and spade. In a train of three or more wagons there should be a pick-axe and two spades to every three wagons, with which to repair roads.

With *each* of such trains there should be two or three scythes, complete, and scythe-stones; a hand-saw; two augers of suitable sizes; a monkey-wrench; one or two mortising chisels; a coil or less of lariat rope; one or two lanterns; a hand and shoeing hammer, wrought nails, mule shoes and nails; extra linch

pins, tongues, hounds and coupling poles: the timbers to be tied on the outside of wagon-beds. Also extra hames, collars, halters, single and double trees, and trace chains; some open links; saddler's awls; and a few buckskins. A teamster with an awl and a strip of buckskin can soon repair broken harness.

There should be for service in a country infested with hostile Indians, a six gallon water keg in good order and tight, hung under each wagon. Larger kegs cannot well be carried from where filled to the wagon by one man. If troops are to travel with a train, or with wagons, there should be enough more of the kegs to afford at least two quarts of water to each man, including teamsters and employés.

II. In ordinary marches the cavalry soldier should march on foot, leading his horse, every third hour. Of course all mounted officers marching with cavalry organizations will set the example of traveling on foot, when the cavalry soldier is required so to travel.

III. There should be a halt of ten minutes after the first fifty minutes of a day's journey, and of at least five minutes at the end of every subsequent hour.

IV. When animals receive grain forage and are in good order, a day's journey can be made without unsaddling cavalry horses or taking draught animals out of harness. When animals depend entirely on grazing it will keep them up longer, especially if not in good flesh, to make, say, two-thirds of the journey or thereabout, and then turn out and graze, and rest until the heat of the day is passed; then saddle, harness and move on so as to arrive at camp by or before sunset. It is always better to have daylight to see the surroundings of the camping place, collect fuel, get water, &c.

When grass is scarce or lacks nutriment, and horses and mules are thin in flesh and travel-worn, two halts a day should be made to enable them to graze, or they will give out and break down entirely.

V. If a party is small and liable to be attacked at night, it should do all its cooking in the day time. Supper should be eaten before dark, water kegs filled, and bundles of fuel with which to cook breakfast tied under the wagons. The party should then move away from the water-hole or spring, and, *after nightfall, move off the road*, and camp in some valley or depression in the ground where the men, animals and wagons will not be seen relieved by the sky, and where an enemy, if he come, will be thus made visible.

Each depression in the ground camped upon will doubtless have some run or ravine by which it is drained. In this, a gunshot distance from camp, three sentinels, if the size of the command will admit of it, should be posted—one to stand post, the others in turn to sleep near him. Indians creep up such hollows when they would surprise a camp; they might shoot one sentinel with arrows, they could rarely shoot three before alarm would be given.

Under such circumstances a good sentinel will sit down near his comrades so that he can awaken them by a touch in case of need; will keep in the shadow, and depend in his vigilance at night as much upon his ears as his eyes. Of course there will be other sentinels posted if the command can afford them; and these in like manner should be posted by threes, within the depression so as just to look over its rim—being in shadow and bringing against the sky any one who approaches. In a camp thus set for the night, there must be no loud talking, no fire, no light, no striking of flint and steel, no burning of matches.

When it is determined upon before night that such a camp is to be made, the men with their knives (if there be no scythes along) should cut enough grass for the horses and mules for the night. This they bring in their blankets and stow it away in bundles in the wagons. By doing this, when danger of attack is impending, all the horses and mules can be tied to the wagons or to a line and be securely fed, whilst the men, not being embarrassed by loose or scattered animals, have nothing to do but fight any one who menaces the camp.

It often occurs where horses and mules are picketed out that a single Indian will crawl amongst them, cut a lariat, and gradually crawl away, leading a horse or mule until out of range. He will then mount and ride slowly away until beyond ear-shot, and afterwards double by circles of miles to catch views of the ground passed over by his own trail that he may watch and count his pursuers as they slowly follow his tracks, step by step, himself unseen.

VI. In the Indian country a small escort should *always* precede the person escorted. On such occasions creeks or ravines to be crossed, or cañons or other dangerous places to be gone through, should be first carefully reconnoitered. After these are passed the escort will never move on without having the person escorted well up to it.

If danger be imminent, two or more men will travel as an

advance guard—some fifty or one hundred yards in front—and a like number in rear as rear guard. In broken ground, one man, at least, should march a hundred yards or more on each flank abreast of the advance guard, *but always in sight of it.*

VII. Arms should be carefully inspected by the officer in charge *every* night just before the men lie down to sleep. The carbine or musket of each soldier should be carefully loaded, the piece left at half cock and laid beside its owner on his blanket, muzzle toward his feet to prevent danger from accidental discharge, and also to be in position to be readily seized and aimed. If the man have a revolver the Inspector will see that it is not only loaded and capped, and that the cylinder revolves easily, but that the hammer is on the stop. When danger of an attack during the night is apprehended, the man will not be permitted to remove his pistol from his person, *or his shoes from his feet.*

In the morning, *without fail*, the men, teamsters and all, will fall in quickly and completely armed, when called by signal or otherwise. This practice will accustom the men to seize their arms ready to fight the moment they spring from bed—even when awakened at any hour.

When everything has been prepared for the march, the officer in charge, before a man leaves the ground, will have another careful inspection of the arms and the outfit generally, *personally to know* that each man is ready to fight at a moment's notice. He will see that the canteens and kegs are filled, if he be still near water; if not near water, this will be done under his own supervision at the next water on the route.

Under no circumstances will teamsters' arms be stowed in wagons or feed boxes, or in ambulances under other things, but be kept strapped to the bows of the wagon, or stanchions of the ambulance, breech toward the owner, at half cock, ready for use in a moment. *Let this be remembered.* Many a life has been lost by forgetting it.

VIII. The person in charge of an escort, detachment or train, should, by previous inquiries, have learned as far as possible all about the road or country he is to pass over from day to day, to the end that if no fuel is to be found at his next camp or halting place, he may have a few fagots or "buffalo chips" (*bois de vache*) put on his wagons for cooking.

Fires made of green wood make much smoke which at night fall settles along valleys and low places, and can be seen a long way off. Fires made of *dry hard wood* make but little smoke,

which seldom settles or becomes visible, even when a norther or other sudden cold change in the weather is about to take place.

The burning brands of wood left after cooking is done should at once be scattered and extinguished by shoveling dirt upon them, especially so at night when fire is no longer required, even though the camp is to remain for the night: *First*, that the fire may not be seen: *Second*, that sudden gusts or gales of wind may not blow sparks into wagons, tents or beds, or set the neighboring grass on fire: *Third*, that the remaining unburned wood may be used next morning, or by yourself on your return trip, or by some needy traveler. Soldiers and teamsters have the bad habit, when about to leave a camp or halting place, of piling all remaining wood on the fires. Fires should be extinguished and the remaining brands and logs should be scattered.

It takes but very little fuel, if carefully husbanded, to boil a kettle of water for coffee, bake bread, or fry a pan of meat. If possible, bread should be baked in the day time at points where fuel is plenty. If properly made it will last and be good for two or three days, especially in cold weather.

IX. In Texas especially, and on the plains generally, all rivers, streams and dry beds of creeks are subject to very sudden and dangerous floods, sometimes from distant rains, when overhead the sky is clear and not a drop of rain has fallen. Therefore troops and trains should *always* cross one of these and then move on to ground certain to be above the reach of any freshet, before they encamp. *This rule should never be forgotten.*

X. When grain (corn, wheat, barley, or oats) is to be fed at camp or stopping places on long marches, or *Jornadas*, where no water for the animals is to be had, such grain should be kept in water the night before starting. If no barrels or tubs can be had in which to soak it, put the sacks, each half filled with grain, into the creek, spring, or water hole. As the grain swells it will not then burst the sack. Wet, well soaked grain is refreshing to animals exhausted by fatigue and thirst, and can easily be digested though the animal which consumes it have no water where it is fed. Seldom do animals have the colic, even when fed upon wheat, if the grain has been well soaked, although the weather be warm and the grain already grown hot from fermentation.

XI. A tablespoonful of chloride of lime in a pint of water,

is a good remedy for ordinary colic in a mule or horse. The dose can be repeated without danger.

XII. In an Indian country, on going into camp, wagons should always be formed in *corral*; that is, arranged in an elliptical or circular form, with the main opening and spaces between the wagons closed by the fifth and bearing chains, or by ropes; at night all the animals should be tied on the *inside*; and, if danger be imminent, fed with grass, cut and brought in blankets as before stated.

Teamsters should be practised in forming a *corral* rapidly, at least once after starting every day, and when halts to graze are made.

The teams should be numbered from front to rear each morning, as they should alternate in leading day after day.

At a signal all odd numbers should move to the right and even numbers to the left. When the two columns thus formed are, say, twenty or more yards apart, according to the ground and the size of the train, the leading wagons halt and the others close up. They can then move on in parallel columns until another signal is given to form the *corral*. Then the two leading wagons turn and approach each other, passing only until their teams lap, when they halt; the next wagon in each column is directed so as to bring its team inside and just lapping the wagon in front. In this way the teamsters soon learn how large the *corral* should be, and to form it promptly. The opening is between the rear ends of the last two wagons. Ambulances and carriages are driven between the two columns, and to the centre as the *corral* is forming.

A *corral* thus formed, with not a mule unhitched, makes a very good defence: the mules of each team being more or less protected by the wagon in front.

It often happens that Indians menace a train when on the march. To have the teamsters practised, so as to know precisely what to do in such an emergency, prevents the confusion which, without such practice, would be sure to ensue, especially under fire, when no plan had been agreed upon beforehand.

The moment each team comes to a halt in forming a *corral*, the lead mules are hitched to the wagon in front, and its teamster, rifle in hand, posts himself outside of the *corral* opposite his own team, unless otherwise directed, and at once commences to fight if the enemy be within range on his side. Indians have a wholesome respect for determined men, and, unless in overwhelming force, will not long stay under an effective fire.

If the attacking force is large and holds the train in corral for a day or days, and if the firing be heavy, some of the men should dig the earth from under the wheels of the wagons, on the most exposed side first, and so let the wagons down, axles to the ground. The men and animals then get better protection.

If Indians make sign for a talk, only two or three should be permitted to come within rifle shot: none inside of the *corral*.

In the night, men can dig rifle pits outside of the *corral*, or take shelter behind any neighboring obstacle.

A bold front will cause Indians to be wary of you; the least sign of timidity emboldens them; turn to run from them and you are lost.

Always form your wagons in *corral*, especially where camp for the night is to be made. You *may* be attacked. At all events you have the practice; and besides, a *corral* is a convenient enclosure for loose stock.

XIII. If you think yourself pursued when on the march, leave, if you can spare them, two or three well mounted men just on the hither side of some elevated ground to watch the country passed over for distant pursuers; if possible, to count them if seen, and then to gallop up and give timely notice. Indians themselves nearly always leave some one on or near their back track, to look out for an enemy who may chance to follow. Scouts thus left by them generally come up at night if no hostile followers have been seen.

XIV. During the day, when you halt to graze, a trusty sentinel or two should be posted if possible on some neighboring elevation, so as to command a good view of the camp and of the animals whilst grazing. This should be done by the commander himself, and before a horse or mule is picketed, or turned out with side lines, to graze. If the command is large, of course sentinels will be well outside in other directions, and some be posted near the herd.

Any person on the watch will give notice of a sudden dash or close proximity of an enemy by discharging his piece. A distant or stealthy approach can be indicated in some other agreed upon method, such as the sentinel putting his cap or jacket on his piece and waving it about, or running around in a circle, &c. In either case every horse and mule will at once be brought in—the cavalry saddle their horses, and *all* have their arms in hand ready to fight.

XV. Small detachments of troops, escorts, and trains, about to march without a Doctor through a country infested with hostile Indians, should be furnished with such medicines and appliances as will meet ordinary casualties and emergencies, and suffice, temporarily, until assistance can be rendered by a medical officer. For example: a few dozen pills of opium and of quinine; some cathartic pills; an ounce or two of tincture of opium; a few doses of salts; a bottle of volatile liniment; a pocket case; a set of splints; a few roller bandages; a fine sponge; some patent lint; a few square inches of oiled silk; a yard of adhesive plaster; a package of tow; and a few bottles of whisky or brandy.

In the event of a gun-shot wound the proper dressing is two layers of lint, say an inch and a half square, saturated with cold water and placed on each orifice of the wound. A piece of oiled silk, twice as large, is laid on that; and all retained in place, say, by a pocket handkerchief. This dressing should be kept on until the parts become stiff and painful—two to six days, according to the season—when the dressing should be removed and either a similar dressing of warm water, or a bread-and-water poultice, should be applied and renewed once or twice daily. The less a wounded man eats the first five or six days the better. After that he requires nourishment. If the wound is a simple punctured wound, and if at any time it becomes severely painful, the pledget of lint wetted with the tincture of opium instead of water will be applied, and water should be substituted at the next dressing if the pain has been relieved.

If a bone has been fractured by the ball in transit, the first mentioned dressing must be used as directed, then a roller bandage will be applied to the limb, commencing at the fingers or the toes according to the limb wounded; a splint is then applied to two or four sides of the limb to steady the bone, and is retained by another roller bandage. Care should be taken not to apply the bandage too tight at first, lest the swelling of the limb should occasion much pain.

An incised wound—that is, a wound made by a sharp cutting instrument—should be drawn together closely, the surface of the skin about the wound should be wiped dry, and strips of adhesive plaster, half an inch wide and several inches long, should be applied across it so as to keep the parts in contact, and cold water, lint, oiled silk, and handkerchief employed as directed above.

Should the blood be *jetting* from an incised wound, the wound must be pressed open, the mouth of the vessel at the point where the blood *jets* out must be seized by a pair of tweezers or forceps, and turned around once or twice, and the wound be then closed and dressed as above directed.

A simple contused wound does best without *any* application.

A limb bitten by a snake should be tied by a band above the place bitten, volatile liniment kept upon the wound and constantly applied to the whole limb, the patient at the same time sustained by draughts of whisky or brandy sufficient to stimulate but not intoxicate.

Scouts that visit the settlements of Mexicans along the Rio Grande, should learn from that people how to employ in snake bites the *Golondrinaria*, or swallowwort. It is said to be a prompt specific for the rattlesnake bite. It may be bruised, leaves, stem and root; the juice expressed and drank by the spoonful, and also be applied to the wound.

Wounds made by Indian arrows may be treated as incised or punctured wounds. If suspected of being poisoned they should be treated as snake bites.

Stretchers, if necessary, may be extemporized by poles and pieces cut in the woods—or by using tent poles—and a blanket lashed to them.

In the event of sun stroke, if the patient have a pale face and feeble pulse, apply the cold douche by pailfuls of cold water dashed over his head and body, and whisky or brandy-toddy constantly given until he revives or his pulse becomes natural.

XVI. If, when marching or in camp, by day or night, the Indians set fire to the grass to the windward, to burn your train or camp, you must at once set the grass on fire to the leeward, and keep it from burning up toward your train or camp, by the men beating it out with their blankets. Then move on to the burnt place far enough to the leeward to be out of danger of the approaching flames.

XVII. It will be well for soldiers always to remember this simple rule when traveling in a country infested with hostile Indians: *If you think there are no Indians near, then is the time to be especially on your guard.*

The Indians are wily and very patient. They will hover about and watch you sometimes for days and days, to find you relaxing your vigilance and at length off your guard. They

see and know full well when you think they are not near. That is just the time when, as a panther which has patiently watched its prey, they make their spring.

It is better to be prudent *all the time*—and even more than cautious—than to be left on foot, or to lose life.

BY COMMAND OF COLONEL J. J. REYNOLDS:

H. CLAY WOOD,

Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.

